our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Summer 1993

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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Summer 1993
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COVER:

Bottoms up: this guinea pig is ready to toast summer in this photo by Valerie A. Morin of Stow.

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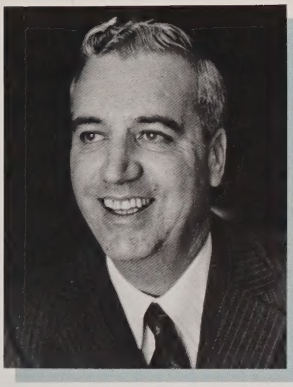


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Thoughtful Way

In addition to their regular donations, many of our friends and supporters have shown an increasing interest in making gifts to the Animal Rescue League of Boston in honor of special events and in memory of loved ones who have passed on.

This type of giving has gained in popularity over the past year to the point that we are delighted to make memorial gift giving available for all of you in an easy, simple format. Enclosed with this and future issues of *Our Fourfooted Friends* is a special, postage paid envelope which will assist you in sending us the necessary information.

This is a very personal and thoughtful way to remember loved ones and at the same time help our animal friends at the League. Gifts may be offered in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, retirement or wedding. These gifts are an ideal holiday remembrance or a way to say a special "Thank you."

A gift could honor the memory of a beloved pet, celebrate the adoption of a new animal friend or simply express appreciation for your pet's love, devotion and companionship.

One of the warmest and most appreciated gifts is one to a friend who has recently suffered the loss of a pet. We all know the grief associated with such a loss and it is especially helpful to know that the thoughts and understanding of friends are with you at such a time. If you have a simple note, prayer or poem you wish to give to this person, please enclose it with this donation and we will be glad to forward it to them with the notice of the kindness of your memorial gift.

In all cases, we will promptly send a personal letter to whomever you designate that this gift has been received from you, for the occasion you have specified. The amount you have given is completely confidential and will appear only on our acknowledgment to you.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or letter if I may answer any questions about this exciting new program.

1993 Annual Meeting

Those attending the League's 94th annual meeting, held Thursday, April 22, at League headquarters, saw several people honored as "partners in the League's mission to rescue animals," and heard warnings that the raccoon rabies outbreak will have a tremendous impact on animal life in this area for some time to come.

Board chairman John C. Hatch welcomed members and friends, and introduced League president Arthur G. Slade, who presented Certificates of Appreciation to some courageous men and women who were responsible for three dramatic animal rescues during the past year.

The first award was presented to Lts. David Wagstaff and Bud Jacobson of the Richmond, N.H. Fire Department for their heroic rescue of "Rosie," a drowning golden retriever. Their citation read: "Despite dangerous conditions and a lack of rescue equipment, on March 29, 1992, they acted instantly and without regard for their own safety to rescue 'Rosie,' a golden retriever who was drowning after falling into an ice-covered pond. As a result of their efforts, Rosie was reunited with her grateful owner."

Another Certificate of Appreciation was presented to representatives of the Framingham Police and Fire Departments, and the Boston Edison Company, "who displayed exemplary compassion, and performance above and beyond their professional responsibility in assisting in the rescue of 'Karl,' a 20-year-old horse who was trapped chest-deep in a freezing, muddy pond on January 22, 1992."

The horse's caretaker, Susan Bathe, was on hand to express her personal appreciation. "They really deserve this award," she said, "because they never gave up, even after hours of trying." Accepting the award were Framingham Police Sgt. Joseph Tomasi and Officer Richard Murphy, and Boston Edison district manager Jack Goggin who said: "We believe that social responsibility to animals and people is just as important as doing our regular work."

Also honored, but not present at the meeting, was Rita Fisler of Boston who received a Certificate of Appreciation "for the lifesaving action she took on November 14, 1992, in performing CPR on 'Abby,' a golden retriever who had swallowed a rubber ball and stopped breathing."

In his president's message, Arthur G. Slade reviewed the accomplishments of the League's 93rd year of humane service, and expressed deep appreciation to the members for

Chief David Wagstaff of the Wellesley Fire Department (l) joins his son Lt. David Wagstaff, Jr. and Lt. Bud Jacobson, both of the Richmond, N.H. Fire Department, as they receive a Certificate of Appreciation from League president Arthur G. Slade.

Honored for rescuing a drowning horse, (l to r) Jack Goggin, district manager of Boston Edison; Framingham Police Sgt. Joseph Tomasi; and Officer Richard Murphy pose with League board chairman John C. Hatch, and Susan Bathe, the horse's caretaker.

"their tremendous support over the years, both morally and financially." He also lauded the League's dedicated staff of over 70 employees. "The things they do, on a day-by-day basis, are what makes the organization work. They have a spirit that we value so much!"

As guest speaker, the League's director of veterinary medicine, Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M., brought the audience up to date on the recent arrival of the raccoon rabies strain in Massachusetts, and offered some practical advice for dealing with the crisis. "This disease will have a tremendous impact this year, and from now on for some time to come," he warned.

Dr. Leonard told the gathering that there are an estimated 200,000–250,000 raccoons in Massachusetts, with a density of 60–70 per square mile in urban areas. "It is estimated that 50% will be affected by rabies." He applauded the "long past-due" passage of the state law requiring that cats be vaccinated against rabies, noting that "cats coexist with raccoons in the same backyards."

He reported that rabies had been confirmed to date in 146 raccoons, four skunks, two woodchucks, a fox, a cow, and one cat. (*Note:* As this magazine goes to press, the toll has risen to well over 200 cases confirmed in over 70 Massachusetts communities, including Boston and most of the surrounding towns and cities.)

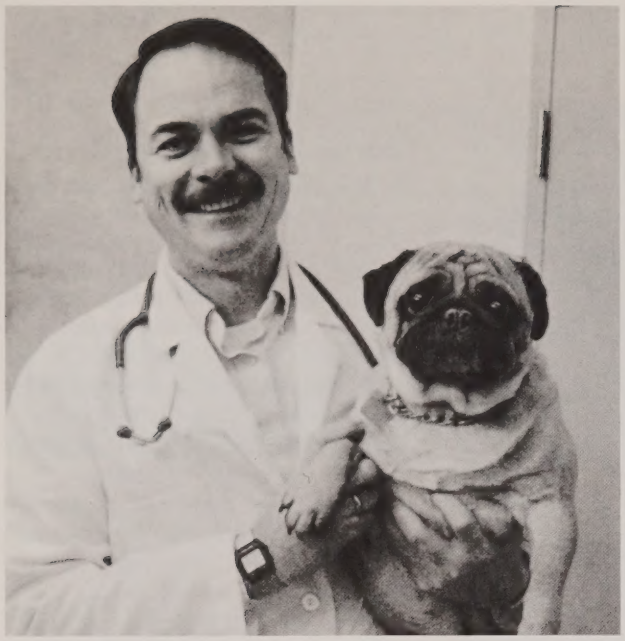
Describing state public health guidelines for dealing with domestic animals that have known, or suspected, exposure to rabies, Dr. Leonard urged members to spread the word on the importance of having pets vaccinated. "The first recommendation for unvaccinated pets that have been bitten by an animal of unknown origin is that they be put to sleep," he warned. In addition to having their pets vaccinated, people should avoid wildlife, and learn basic first aid measures for dealing with bites or wounds. "Wounds should be scrubbed with soap and water for at least ten minutes, and reported to public health officials." Anyone cleaning an animal's wound should protect themselves with gloves and glasses, he added.

The League's by-laws were revised at the meeting to expand the size of the board of directors. The following new directors were elected: Mrs. Kenneth Gregg, Mrs. William Hoyt, and Dr. Holly Kelsey. Re-elected to the board were Shepard Brown, Mrs. William L. Brown, Mrs. John E. Dawson, Elizabeth D. Smith, Harold H. Seward, and John F. Sugden, Jr.

The board of directors of the Animal Rescue League of Boston in May elected Richard A. Hall as new chairman of the board, succeeding John C. Hatch, who had served as chairman since 1976. Mr. Hatch, who has been a director of the League since 1965, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation "in recognition of seventeen years of dedicated service as Chairman of the Board."

A member of the League's board of directors since 1969, and secretary of the board since 1975, Richard Hall is a former managing director of Scudder, Stevens and Clark. He retired six years ago after a 30-year career with the firm and is currently a private investment counselor. A graduate of Dartmouth College, he holds an M.B.A. degree from their Amos Tuck School of Business Administration. Married, with three children and one grandchild, he is a lifelong resident and former town moderator of Marshfield.

Chairman Richard A. Hall and president Arthur G. Slade present the League's Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing chairman John C. Hatch (center).



A Veterinary Update:

Plan for Emergencies

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

One of the most important steps pet owners can take to safeguard the life and health of their companion animals is to be prepared in advance to respond to emergencies.

If a dog or cat is hit by a car, injured in a fall or a fight, or suddenly shows signs of shock, poisoning, or other life-threatening symptoms, there is no emergency response ambulance team to summon with a phone call — it is the pet owner's responsibility to administer any needed emergency first aid, and transport the animal as quickly as possible to a veterinarian or animal hospital.

Ask your veterinarian to help you draw up an emergency plan in advance. Find out if your veterinarian is on call for emergencies, has a night or weekend phone number, or back-up coverage when away. Locate the nearest animal hospital or clinic with 24-hour coverage, and jot down its number on your emergency telephone number list.

If your pet is hit by a car, or suffers some other traumatic injury, there are several things you can do to help until the animal is able to be transported to a veterinarian or animal hospital. First, call your veterinarian immediately for advice, and treatment arrangements, then administer the following first aid measures:

• Try to stem bleeding by applying pressure to the wound using a clean gauze pad or bandage. If the blood is spurting, an artery has probably been cut, in which case it will be necessary to apply a tourniquet between the cut and the heart for short periods of time (only 10–15 minutes).

• Keep the animal warm, because shock is quite common after an accident. Signs of shock (defined as inadequate circulation to the body tissues) include very pale gums, a speeded-up heart rate, weak pulse and panting.

• Transport the animal as quickly as possible to a veterinarian or animal hospital, using a blanket or flat object as a stretcher, or a carrier for a cat or small animal. When moving an injured animal, use common sense and extreme caution. Frightened and in pain, even a normally gentle dog is likely to bite when injured. A loop of soft cloth (or even a nylon stocking) can be secured around the dog's muzzle to keep it from biting. Slip the loop around the jaws with a knot tied over the nose and the loose ends brought down around and under the chin, and tied behind the ears in a bow (for easy release). Be sure the nostrils are not covered.

Other emergency situations you should be prepared to handle include:

• **Puncture or bite wounds** should be cleaned with soap and water (wear gloves), and an antiseptic solution. If swelling occurs, or if the wound is from an animal of unknown origin, consult your veterinarian immediately. Even if your pet has been inoculated against rabies, it may still require a booster shot, and close medical observation. In view of the current outbreak of rabies in raccoons, it is extremely important that your dogs and cats all have current rabies vaccinations.

• **Suspected poisoning** warrants an immediate call to the veterinarian. If you know what kind of toxic substance your pet has swallowed, your veterinarian may be able to tell you on the phone how to administer the correct antidote or emergency first aid. Never attempt to treat your pet without consulting a veterinarian, however, because administering the wrong antidote can be fatal.

• **Heatstroke and/or frostbite** are both life-threatening situations that require medical treatment. Immediate first aid measures include immersing the animal in cool water to reduce body temperature, in the case of heatstroke; and applying warmed, wet towels to slowly thaw frostbitten limbs.

• **Vomiting** occasionally is not a cause for concern, but frequent vomiting can be a symptom of a more serious problem and calls for veterinary attention. If your pet vomits, don't feed it solid food for 24 hours, then begin offering only soft, bland foods for the next day or two. During this time, be sure water is available, and you may also provide ice cubes (one at a time) made of half-strength Gatorade, an easily digestible source of nourishment.

Pet owners should also be aware that the life-saving techniques of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the Heimlich maneuver (to remove an obstruction that is causing choking) can be used to save the lives of pets as well as people. Training in both of these techniques is widely available, and your veterinarian can show you how to adjust the procedures to deal with the differences in animal anatomy.

The staff gathers for a "family" photo: From left to right, bottom row, are: Dana Cravling, head trainer with "Hattie," Joan Sherizan, placement counselor with "Piper," Ellen Terryberry, program director with the original hearing dog, "Rainbow." L-R, top row: Angela Nickerson, trainer, with "Noah," Isabel Conrad, secretary, and Carolyn Bird, Executive Director.

A Final Farewell

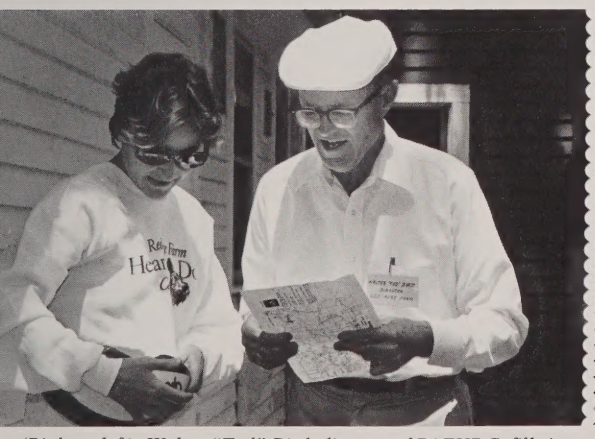
Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center (RAFHDC) hosted its final Open House celebration after twelve joyful and challenging years training and placing dogs with hearing-impaired clients. The Open House took place during a warm and sunny day on May 23 and attracted more than 300 friends, visitors, and past graduates of the program. The day was filled with activities such as speeches, a RAFHDC information table, a Deaf Awareness information table, hearing dog demonstrations, and presentations of awards for newly certified teams of hearing dogs and owners and volunteer appreciation awards. It was a day filled with mixed emotions for everyone who has been so dedicated to accomplishing the work of the hearing dog center. "We felt a sense of warmth and of family with all who attended," said Carolyn Bird, Executive Director, about the open house, "the recipients, volunteers, donors and all who wanted to pay their final tribute to the work we do. It was a lump-in-the-throat time — feelings of joy for what has been accomplished and sadness that Red Acre Farm will not continue this service."

Through their efforts the RAFHDC staff have truly improved the lives of both animals and people. Over the years 148 dogs were chosen from a variety of animal shelters and trained to be the ears for the deaf by signaling when a telephone rang, a doorbell chimed, a baby cried, or a smoke alarm sounded. These dogs were then placed with approved applicants and a wonderful change occurred in the lives of this "team." A dog who was previously homeless and unwanted became a cherished "working" pet to a doting owner, and a deaf person was connected to the world again through the work of their dog who helped them to "hear" the sounds of daily life.

Although Red Acre Farm is closing, the warm memories and profound rewards from their work will live on in the current staff. "The last twelve years have been an incredibly enriching experience to work closely with a small, dedicated and talented and highly professional group," said Carolyn Bird, "Deeply gratifying to be able to help so many deaf or hard-of-hearing people and homeless animals."

We applaud their efforts and the Animal Rescue League of Boston is proud to have had 42 dogs accepted into and placed by this hearing dog program.

(Left to right): Graduates of the hearing dog program pose proudly together as they begin a new life as a team: Sharon Green with "Chrystal" and Joyce Dunlap with "Becky."



(Right to left): Walter "Tad" Bird, director of RAFHDC, fills in an interested visitor about the work of the hearing dog center.

(Right to left): Carolyn Bird, executive director of Red Acre Farm, enjoys a quiet moment with her son Jerry, daughter-in-law Gay, and grandchildren Derrick (foreground) and baby Meredith.

A guide to animal-related services

When you need a helping hand

Suppose you find a possum asleep in the bottom of your trash can . . . or a stray dog has been threatening neighborhood children . . . or maybe a family of raccoons has taken up residence in your attic. You need help, but who do you call? City Hall? The Animal Rescue League? 911?

In an animal-related emergency, getting quick access to the appropriate assistance can be vital to both animal and human well-being, but it can be difficult to determine who to call since the answer can vary depending on the nature of the emergency, where you live, and your own community resources. And the potential for confusion has been compounded by recent changes in policy and jurisdiction dictated by state public health response to the outbreak of rabies in raccoons.

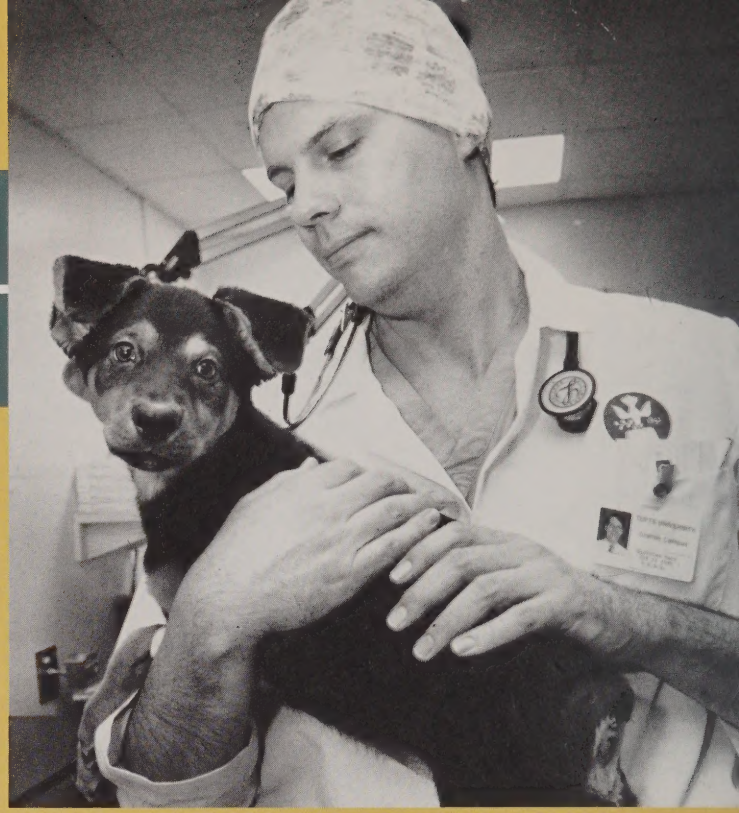
The predicaments described above are examples of recent calls to the League for help. The first case was really a "nuisance" animal situation, rather than a humane problem. What the caller should have done is either contact a pest control company, or better yet simply turn the trash can over and allow the animal to run free, if it appeared to be acting normally.

The second call represented an animal control problem, and a potential threat to public safety. In this case, the caller was advised to contact his local animal control officer, the authority responsible for picking up stray animals. The third case, the raccoons in the attic, in the past might have been handled by humanely removing the animals and releasing them in the wild. Since the rabies outbreak, however, new public health guidelines prohibit the relocation of animals in a high-risk category. The home owner should contact a pest control company that has a state removal permit (see guidelines for "High-Risk" animals).

"If you're in doubt about what to do in an animal-related emergency, don't hesitate to call the League for advice and guidance. We'll be happy to steer you to the appropriate source of help," says Boston shelter manager Paula Ouimette. Knowing what to do in advance, however, can prevent wasting minutes that may be crucial to an animal's health or survival. The following guidelines cover some typical emergencies, and how best to respond to them.

Injured Animals

Animal Rescue League agents are prepared to come to the aid of any animal that is injured, or in trouble, anywhere in its service area in eastern Massachusetts (see service areas on p. 10). If an animal has been hit by a car, you should call your local police, as well as the nearest League shelter (or state police if the accident has taken place on a highway.) The police will not only deal with traffic control and public safety, but will also alert your town or city's animal control or dog officer, who may be able to arrive on the scene with assistance faster than a League ambulance, depending on where you live.

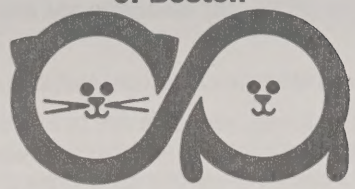


League agents brought this injured puppy to Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine where Dr. Nicholas Macy had to amputate its tail. Now fully recovered, the pup has been adopted by a League staff member. *Photo by Arthur Pollack, Boston Herald.*

On their daily rounds, League agents pick up animals that are being surrendered for adoption.

Agent Peter Faux and shelter manager Paula Ouimette get acquainted with a new arrival.

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE
of Boston



HELPING ANIMALS SINCE 1899

A THOUGHTFUL WAY...

to remember loved ones and to help our animal friends at the same time is through a gift to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Gifts may be extended in memory of a loved one...in honor of a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, retirement or wedding...as a holiday remembrance...or, as a way to say a special "Thank You!"

A gift could honor the memory of a beloved pet or celebrate the adoption of a new animal friend...

We will promptly notify whomever you designate that this gift has been received from you, for the occasion you have specified. The amount you have given is completely confidential and will appear only on our acknowledgement to you.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON
YOUR GIFT IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

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or

In Honor of _____ Occasion _____
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(Name)

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(Address) (City, State, Zip Code)

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"Max" takes a ride with agent Steve Giuva, the first step on his journey to a new home.

"Use common sense. In a life-threatening emergency, it may not be always possible for us to get there in time. Know in advance what resources are available in your own community, and cover all bases," advises League law enforcement coordinator Alan Borgal.

Advance preparation is equally important when it comes to the safety of your own pets. If an owned animal is injured, it is the owner's responsibility to transport the animal to a veterinarian or animal hospital. The League's veterinary outpatient clinic is available for scheduled routine health care appointments, but the League does not have overnight or emergency surgery facilities. Pet owners should always have an emergency care plan set up in advance (see article on p. 6). "We see hundreds of emergencies every year, and what we find is that the people who are prepared are the ones whose animals usually survive," Borgal notes.

Stray Animals

To have stray dogs picked up, the appropriate person to contact is your city or town's animal control officer. For residents of Brewster and Orleans, the League's Cape Cod branch, (508) 255-1030, is the designated animal control authority. The League will pick up stray cats, but they must be confined.

When it comes to colonies of feral cats, however, there is no agency officially designated to deal with the situation. "As a humane society, the League tries to help communities, but this is a massive problem," Alan Borgal notes. Animal control authorities may or may not be able to help, since feral cat populations are often viewed as wildlife. Contact your local department of public health first to see if there is any community-based program in place to deal with feral cats. The League will also be glad to respond to calls for advice, and help point you in the right direction.

If a stray dog or cat is acting strangely, and you suspect that it may be sick or rabid, contact your community's designated animal inspector. In Boston and in Brewster, this is the Animal Rescue League. In all other cities and towns, a specific individual has been designated as animal inspector by the state Department of Public Health.

High-Risk Animals

The following animals have been identified by the Department of Public Health as having a high potential for exposure to rabies: raccoon, fox, skunk, woodchuck (ground hog), bat, opossum, feral cat, ferret, wild dogs, and domestic animals with known or suspected rabies exposure.

Except for Boston and Brewster, where the League is the designated animal inspector, the League can no longer go into communities to pick up animals in these high-risk categories. According to public health guidelines, it is now the responsibility of each city and town department of health to develop a plan to assist residents in dealing with potentially rabid animals. "If the League were to transport a high-risk animal across city or town borders, and that animal later tested positive for rabies, we could then be responsible for spreading the virus," explains Thomas White, director of operations.

Pest Wildlife

A reputable pest control company should be contacted to remove "nuisance" wildlife from a private home. Before hiring a particular company, there are some questions you should ask, such as: What methods do you use to capture the animals? What do you do with the animals after capture? Methods such as glue traps, leghold traps, and snares are inhumane and some are illegal. It is also illegal to relocate wildlife in Massachusetts, so the animals must either be released at the site (if healthy) or humanely destroyed.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife can provide you with information on which pest control companies have state removal permits, and also furnish technical information on various wildlife problems. Their phone numbers are (508) 792-7270 (Westwood), and (617) 727-3151 (Boston).

Suspected Cruelty or Neglect

If you suspect that an animal is being abused or neglected, contact your nearest Animal Rescue League shelter as quickly as possible. League law enforcement officers are authorized to investigate complaints, take animals into protective custody if necessary, and file criminal charges and prosecute if animal protection laws have been violated.

Lost Pets

If you have lost a pet, contact your nearest League shelter and give a description of the animal. "Call us, but don't stop there," Paula Ouimette urges. "Call the police, the animal control officer, everybody . . . even the paperboy!" If you live in the Boston area, other places to contact include Boston Animal Control Unit, (617) 635-5342; Boston's kennel/dog pound facility (Bruce's Kennel in Dedham), (617) 326-3325; the MSPCA shelter, (617) 522-5055; and the Angell Memorial Hospital, (617) 522-7282.

Check area newspaper lost-and-found columns, place your own ad, and plaster your neighborhood with lost pet poster (with a photo of your pet if possible).

Giving Up an Animal

When you are forced by sad circumstances to give up a pet, make every effort you can to ensure that it can be placed in a new home. If you live in the League's Boston service area (see p. 10), you can make arrangements a day in advance for the League ambulance to pick up your animal on its scheduled route, for a nominal fee. If you live in an area served by one of our branches, we recommend that you bring the animal in to the shelter, but if transportation is a problem, arrangements can be made for pick-up. It will also help expedite care and placement if you can provide the League with your pet's medical history.

Animal Rescue League Service Areas

The following towns and communities are served by the League's headquarters or branch shelters. League ambulances have regular service routes in the cities and towns in the Boston service area (see color code and legend below). To arrange for ambulance service in the areas covered by branch shelters, call the number listed for the nearest branch.

BOSTON
(617) 426-9170

Ambulances from the Boston headquarters have regular daily routes in most Boston neighborhoods, Monday through Friday, including Allston, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Brighton, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Readville, Roslindale, Roxbury, South Boston, South End, West Roxbury. A few sections of Boston, plus the following cities and towns, have regular ambulance service either one, two or three days a week (see the color code beside the name of your community).

- Arlington
- Bedford
- Belmont
- Boston (Charlestown, East Boston, No. End)
- Braintree
- Brookline
- Burlington
- Cambridge
- Chelsea
- Cohasset
- Concord
- Everett
- Foxborough
- Hingham
- Hull
- Lexington
- Lincoln
- Malden
- Medford
- Medway
- Melrose
- Nantasket
- Natick
- Newton
- North Reading
- Quincy
- Randolph
- Reading
- Scituate
- Somerville
- Stoneham
- Wakefield
- Waltham
- Watertown
- Wayland
- Weston
- Weymouth
- Wilmington
- Winchester
- Woburn

Monday, Wednesday, Friday | Tuesday & Thursday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday

BREWSTER
(508) 255-1030

- Brewster
- Chatham
- Dennis
- Eastham
- Harwich
- Orleans
- Provincetown
- Truro
- Wellfleet
- Yarmouth

DEDHAM
(617) 326-0729

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On the Legislative Front:

A FUSS OVER FERRETS

Photo courtesy of the Ferret Rescue League

Fastidious, friendly and funny, or fetid and fierce?

The controversy over whether the small, furry, domestic ferret makes a good pet or not made its way to the corridors of the State House recently when legislation was introduced that would legalize ferret ownership in the Commonwealth. Relatives of the skunk, weasel, mink and polecat, pet ferrets until now have been living undercover as "illegal immigrants" in Massachusetts, one of the few remaining places in the nation that bans the possession and sale of the animal (along with California, Michigan and New York City).

Many of these animals have been coming in from neighboring New Hampshire where pet store sales of ferrets are reported to be booming since the state legalized their sale and possession last year. "One of our major concerns is that this hidden ferret pet population is not receiving veterinary care, especially rabies inoculations," says Thomas White, director of operations at the League.

The bill now under consideration would legalize possession of ferrets as pets, or for breeding purposes, but would still prohibit their sale in pet shops. This is a restriction supported by the League, the MSPCA, public health officials and other humane groups. "We worry about the 'impulse' buyer who goes to the mall to pick up a video and comes home instead with a cute, furry animal, and no knowledge whatsoever of its needs or temperament. These are the people most likely to turn the animals loose when they get tired of caring for them, exposing them to rabies and creating a potential public health threat," White notes.

Ferret fans maintain that their pets are smart, loyal, housebroken and much misunderstood, but public health officials warn that the animal can be temperamental and dangerous, especially to young children and infants. According to a recent article in the *Boston Globe,* there were 425 cases of ferret attacks on humans between 1978 and 1987, in Arizona, California and Oregon. Even experienced owners agree that ferrets are not for everybody. In the same article, ferret fancier Jean Hillner stated: "For the right people — and I emphasize for the right people — they are very affectionate and extremely personable." The owner of three ferrets, she notes that she has no children, is at home a lot, and has ferret-proofed her house as she would for a toddler.

The current proposed legislation represents a revision of the originally submitted bill, amended to incorporate several protective measures that were sought by the League and other humane groups. In addition to banning pet shop sales, the proposed law would establish a breeder's license fee of no less than $1,000, and require that all ferrets sold by breeders be permanently marked, or tattooed, for identification purposes. "The purpose of this marking is to ensure that if a ferret gets loose, we can trace it back to an owner or breeder to determine whether or not it has been vaccinated against rabies," Thomas White explains.

Included in the state's listing of animals that are in the "high risk" category for rabies, ferrets that are kept as pets would be required by law to be inoculated for rabies, as well as distemper, and be neutered or spayed.

The League has supported this legislation as a means of putting some safeguards and controls on what is probably an inevitably growing pet trade, but it does not recommend the ferret as a good family pet. In addition to the danger of biting mentioned earlier, the ferret has a distinct musky odor, and an agility that allows it to get into all kinds of mischief if not confined to a cage. Derived from the Latin "furittus," or "little thief," the word "ferret" has become synonymous for searching out, digging up, or shrewdly uncovering things from a hiding place, all traits that can become most difficult to live with.

The domestic ferret, it should be noted, is a different species from the native wild black-footed ferret, which is now listed as an endangered species.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

STATE OPENS DOOR TO PETS IN FAMILY HOUSING

State housing secretary Mary Padula recently announced that pets will now be allowed in family public housing complexes in the state, provided local authorities approve. Local housing authorities can request a waiver to the state policy which has prohibited pets, other than birds and fish, in family housing projects. Pets have been allowed in state housing for the elderly since 1989.

"FREE ENTERPRISE" BRINGS DOG FIGHTS TO MOSCOW

Representatives of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) have protested to Russian embassy officials that vicious pit bull fights are being held in downtown Moscow. The fights are held in exclusive clubs where the very rich pay as much as 2,000 roubles, equal to a week's wages, to watch bloody hour-long bouts. Officials of the former Soviet Union maintain that they were unaware of the fights, but have agreed that such activities are a violation of existing laws.

One recent round of fights, held at the exclusive Dynamo Club in Moscow, was organized by the Association of American Pit Bull Terrier Owners. WSPA is investigating whether U.S. federal laws prohibiting the export of pit bulls were violated when these dogs were shipped to Russia.

LEAGUE LAB LEAPS TO STARDOM

A local high jumper and League alumnus won national recognition as a finalist in the U.S. canine frisbee competition, held in June in Baltimore. A combination labrador/whippet, "Taylor" was adopted from the League three years ago by Mike Piazza of Dedham.

SHELTER MANAGEMENT PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED

Paula R. Ouimette, former manager of the League's Salem shelter, was appointed manager of the Boston headquarters' shelter in March. She joined the League staff in 1989 as assistant manager of the Sheldon Branch in Salem, and was promoted to manager in 1991. Succeeding her as manager of the Sheldon Branch is Lisa Johnson, a member of the Salem staff since 1988, and assistant manager since late 1991.

In addition, Ray Orlando, a former law enforcement officer and night supervisor who joined the staff as an ambulance agent in 1984, was named assistant manager of the Boston shelter, and Michelle Regan, a member of the Salem staff since 1991, was promoted to assistant manager of the Sheldon Branch.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Barbara S. Nadeau, a human resource specialist with 19 years' experience in the field, joined the League in February as director of human resources. As an employee relations specialist, she implemented federal and state employment laws in health care management of hospitals throughout Massachusetts, and prior to that in a private health care setting affiliated with the Harvard Community Health Plan.

Currently working toward a master's degree in human resources at Emmanuel College, she holds a B.S. degree in health care administration from Lesley College, and a certificate in human resources from Bentley College.

In May, Peter Capraro, a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, was appointed to the staff as a humane education instructor. While pursuing his degree in human services, with courses in education, he worked with animals at a veterinary hospital and a pet shop, and spent one summer as an instructor at the League's Animal Friends Summer School.

In addition to serving as assistant director of the Summer School, he will be involved in educational programs during the school year, and pet therapy visitations to nursing homes and chronic care hospitals.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Titled "Cat Scan," this shot by photographer Don Treeger of the *Springfield Newspapers* captured first prize in the animal photo category of the 1992 Boston Press Photographers Association Annual Awards competition. Arthur G. Slade, League president, presented the award at the association's award dinner, June 5, 1993. Also honored at the event was video coverage of League staff members rescuing a drowning dog, filmed by cameraman Donnat Mitchell of WCVB-TV, who received first prize in the E.M.S. television news category.

POOCH PARADE

Boston dog owners and their pets participate in the second annual Pooch Parade on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, held May 17. The event is sponsored by the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay to encourage responsible dog ownership in the city, according to chairpersons Luanne Pryor, and Stella Trafford of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall committee.

RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINICS FOR DOGS AND CATS

The League, in cooperation with City of Boston Fire Department, will be holding the following low-cost rabies immunization clinics between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each inoculation will be provided at a cost of $2.00 each, and at no charge to pet owners over the age of 60. For more information telephone the League at 617-426-9170.

DATE	LOCATION
Saturday, July 24	Engine Company #20, 301 Neponset Avenue, Dorchester
Saturday, August 28	Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston
Saturday, September 25	Engine Company #14, Ladder Co. 4, 174 Dudley Street, Roxbury
Saturday, October 23	Engine Company #53, Ladder 16, 945 Canterbury Street, West Roxbury (Mattapan, Roslindale, Hyde Park neighborhoods)

PETS IN THE PICTURE

1

2

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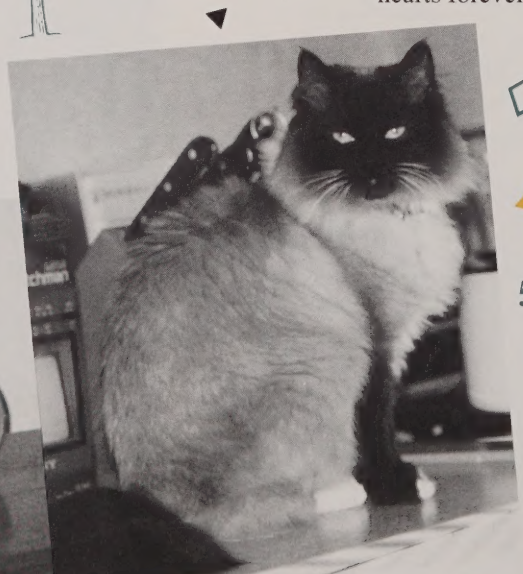

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1 Joan Rossetti of Boston made a generous gift to the League in memory of her pet "Bijou," shown here "on a walk in the city." "I hope this donation may help another dog or animal that may be in trouble the way Bijou was — a little one with a physical problem, needing a home," she writes. "Many thanks for the most loving and protective companion I have ever had."

2 "Nile" stops to smell the flowers on the deck of his Harwich home with Tom and Kristin Pandiscio who adopted him from the League's Brewster shelter. "He has lots of room to run with our two dogs, 'Casey' and "Brandon,' and 'Gaston' the cat," they write. "We enjoy having rabbits — they help our garden grow, and then they get to enjoy some of the harvest themselves," they note.

3 " 'Lady Grace' has taken over the house," according to Ruth Morris of Boston, who adopted her puppy from the League early this year. "She sits where she wants, and sleeps where she wants, but it's okay because she is the best thing that ever happened to us. She's funny and, believe it or not, even smiles! She obeys well (some of the time), is housebroken (most of the time), and gives us so much love (all of the time)!"

4 "Maggie" contemplates mischief in the Brookline home of owner Jeanne Costello, who adopted the former street waif a year ago when she was a four-month-old kitten. "I called her Maggie, but as time goes by it becomes more and more obvious that she thinks of herself as Princess Margaret," her fond owner observes.

5 "As you can see from her photo, 'Chablis' has great style and attitude," writes Janet Haugh of Norwood who adopted her pet recently from the Dedham shelter. "Chablis is a loving, playful, and intelligent soulmate — and she has trained us well!"

6 "Tombee," who died early this year, gave Mary and John Vasel of Stoneham "13 wonderful years of loyalty, friendship, companionship, and love. Because of his unique personality, he also gave us much laughter. We can't think of a better way to honor his memory than by making a donation to your organization to help other animals," they write. "Tom will be in our hearts forever."

Love comes in all colors and sizes...

...at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Give the gift of love to someone special this year...a present that won't be too big or too small, too dull or too daring, and will never have to be exchanged after the holidays. With a pet adoption gift certificate from the Animal Rescue League of Boston, they can pick out the pet of their choice—a gift that will bring enjoyment for many years to come—at any of the League's four conveniently-located adoption shelters.

A gift certificate for a puppy or kitten, older dog or cat, hamster, gerbil, or even a rabbit can be ordered by telephone, and charged to your credit card.

Animal Rescue League of Boston 10 Chandler St. • (617) 426-9170

Branches:	Dedham	Salem	E. Brewster
	(617) 326-0729	(508) 744-7910	(508) 255-1030

A non-profit humane society helping animals since 1899.

A WAY TO REMEMBER

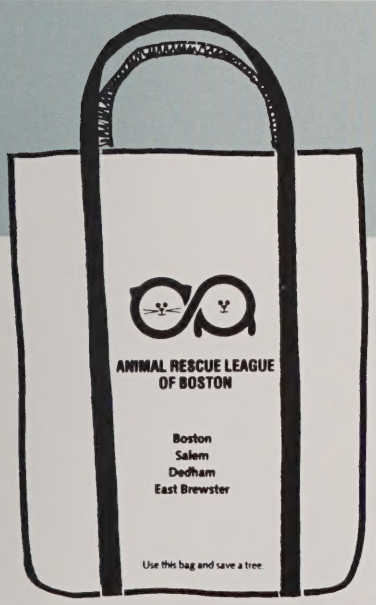
The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is **"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"** that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



SAVE A TREE

NEW ARL TOTE BAG

Be a conscientious consumer and carry your purchases in this rugged white cotton duck tote bag, roomy (17″ × 11½″) with royal blue handles and League logo. Priced at $12, plus $3 for shipping and handling. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

ORDER FORM:

Please send me _____ shopping totes at $12 each, plus $3 shipping and handling.

Name _____

Street _____

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State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Mail to:
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117

PATIENCE — "Ryan" woefully eyes his empty bowl in a pose that won honorable mention for photographer Karen Von den Deale of Brewster in the League's animal photo contest.

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED